

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
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AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 0782

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, LU/ EEC
SUBJ: UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

REF: BURSELS 12809, LUXEMBOURG A-12 AND A-21

1. IN LUXEMBOURG THERE ARE TWO CATEGORIES OF REGISTERED
UNEMPLOYMENT: (A) PERSONS SEEKING BUT NOT OBTAINING
EMPLOYMENT; A CATEGORY WHICH INCLUDES A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF
YOUTH AND WOMEN; (B) FORMERLY EMPLOYED PERSONS QUALIFYING
FOR AND RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION. THE STATIS-
TICAL BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS: CATEGORY (A), AS OF 8/77,
436 MEN, 333 WOMEN, TOTAL 769; (AS OF 8/76, 244 MEN,
183 WOMEN, TOTAL 427). CATEGORY (B) AS OF 8/77; 164 MEN,
127 WOMEN, TOTAL 291; (AS OF 8/76; 69 MEN, 20 WOMEN,
TOTAL 89). STATISTICS FOR YOUTH, THAT IS YOUNG PEOPLE
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UNDER 25, ARE A RECENT PHENOMENON IN LUXEMBOURG. AS OF
8/77 THERE WERE 221 MEN AND 220 WOMEN UNDER 25 (TOTAL 441) SEEKING
BUT NOT OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT. THIS COMPARES WITH A TOTAL
OF 322 (210 MEN AND 112) WOMEN) IN THE 25-60 YEAR GROUP.
THE ONLY PREVIOUS STATISTICS (7/76) AVAILABLE DESCRIBED YOUTH
AS PEOPLE UNDER 21, AND LISTED A TOTAL OF 122 VERSUS 192 BETWEEN
21-60 YEARS FOR A JULY 76 CATEGORY (A) TOTAL OF 314

SEEKING BUT NOT OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT.

2. IN ABSOLUTE TERMS AND EVEN IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, LUXEMBOURG UNEMPLOYMENT IS NEGLIGIBLE COMPARED WITH OTHER EC, US OR OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS' STATISTICS. NONE-THELESS, FULL EMPLOYMENT IN LUXEMBOURG IS MORE THAN A GOAL. IT HAS BEEN A FACT OF LIFE THROUGHOUT THE POST-WAR PERIOD AND THE ECONOMY HAS HAD TO DEPEND ON 30 PERCENT FOREIGN WORK FORCE TO SATISFY ITS NEEDS. THE CONTINUING ECONOMIC RECESSION IN WESTERN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY AS IT HAS AFFECTED THE EUROPEAN STEEL INDUSTRY ACCOUNTS FOR THE INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT IN LUXEMBOURG. THE HIGHER THAN EC AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT REFLECTS A VIRTUAL FREEZE ON NEW HIRINGS, PARTICULARLY IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY WHICH AFFECTS SCHOOL LEAVERS MOST DIRECTLY. THERE IS ALSO A MODEST YOUTH BULGE IN THE LUXEMBOURG POPULATION UNTIL THE EARLY 1980S. PHILLIPS

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